

**STATE OF ENVIRONMENT REPORT FOR UGANDA
2004/05**

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) is honoured to present this sixth edition of the State of the Environment Report for Uganda. While it fulfils our obligations under the National Environment Act Cap 153, Section 87 (2) which requires NEMA to prepare and publish the National State of Environment Report biannually, the report contributes to the development of Uganda by providing information on the status and dynamics surrounding the use of environmental resources, particularly natural resources and the linkages with poverty and sustainable development.

This edition benefited from inputs and suggestions from various individuals and organizations. NEMA would like to extend special thanks to the World Bank who through the Environment Management and Capacity Building Project II supported the preparation and publication of the report. I also acknowledge UNEP as a regional partner for providing technical back stopping on this process.

Special recognition is due to our partners in line ministries, districts, NGO's, CBO's and the private sector who provided data and commented on earlier drafts of the report. Their input contributed immensely to the report. I am also grateful to M/S Ema Consult who compiled the report.

Last but not least, I would like to appreciate and recognize NEMA staff for their substantial and technical contribution to this report.

I look forward to receiving your positive critique and suggestions on the report. I wish you good reading.

Aryamanya- Mugisha, Henry (Ph.D)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOREWORD

The commitment of the Government of Uganda in promoting sustainable environment management is in part, seen in the development of policies, institutional frameworks and targeted programs to ensure sustainable utilization of natural resources. This is more evident, especially in the legislative and institutional arrangement that were made between 1992 and 2002. After the 1992 Earth Summit, Uganda committed itself to the principles of sustainable development and formulated the National Environment Management Policy in 1994. This policy was translated into the National Environment Act Cap 153 (1995). The Act mandates the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) to prepare and disseminate a State of the Environment Report once every two years. To date, Uganda has published five State of Environment Reports the first having been released in 1994. In all these reports sustainable development is seen to entail integration of economic, social and environmental objectives.

The 1994 report mainly took stock of the environmental goods and services of the country and hence gave a baseline data on the country's natural resources at that time. The 1996 report addressed issues with regard to causes, the state of the environment resources and the responses. The 1998 report focused on the stress on natural resources as manifested by environmental problems such as loss of agricultural productivity, loss of forest cover, water pollution, over harvesting of fish, encroachment wildlife areas and wetlands to mention but a few. The 2000 report addressed the environmental implications of key Government programs such as Vision 2025, the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP II) and the Plan for Modernization of Agriculture (PMA). The 2002 report on the other hand focused on the principles of sustainable development and the relationship between the environment and poverty. This edition gave the countries future outlook and outcomes of different scenarios and paths taken to achieve sustainable development.

This report for 2004/05 looks at the drivers of environmental change, the ensuing pressures, the state of the environment, the impacts caused and the responses adopted. New evidence emerging from this report suggests that Uganda's current pattern of development is unsustainable. Economic growth is being achieved by mining the country's natural resource capital, particularly soil erosion caused largely by inappropriate crop husbandry, deforestation and livestock management practices. Further, still this report attempts to put Uganda on the international scene by comparing its performance based on certain indices such as genuine savings, living planet and water scarcity. These indices as reported upon in various sections of the report reflect that Uganda performance is still acceptable on international standards. This report also recommends for urgent policy responses in order to have more effective environmental management.

I wish to commend NEMA for producing the report as required by law and I believe this report will contribute effectively in providing useful information that will guide well informed decisions at all levels of management in Government and outside Government.

Further, I extend my appreciation to the World Bank for the financial support to the Government of Uganda through the Environment Management and Capacity Building Project II. This assistance enabled the smooth preparation of the report.

I wish to express my thanks and gratitude to all institutions and individuals who contributed immensely towards this report and I hope this report will be put to good use by policy and decision makers in Uganda.

Hon. Major General Kahinda Otafiire

MINISTER OF WATER, LANDS AND ENVIRONMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This publication is the sixth report of the State of Environment for Uganda. These reports are prepared biennially aimed at, among others, creating environmental awareness, informing the public, showing key trends in environmental attributes as social and economic development pressures mount on the environment and natural resources, and acting as a resource material for a diverse range of stakeholders. This State of Environment Report for Uganda 2004/05 is intended to meet the aforementioned goals.

The report uses the driving forces-pressure-state-impact-response format, all reported in an integrated way. That is, the report looks at the drivers of environmental change, the ensuing pressures, the state of the environment, the impacts caused, and the responses adopted if any. Furthermore, the report informs of emerging issues such as attempts to rank countries according to various indices including: biodiversity, adjusted net savings and water scarcity, the latter from both hydrological and social aspects.

The report is divided into three main parts containing nine chapters. Part I of the report deals with the introduction and country overview. Part II is a description of the state of the environment for Uganda for 2004/05 and includes chapters on: atmospheric, terrestrial, aquatic and cross-sectoral resources representing the biophysical component of the environment, and the socioeconomic and cultural environment. Part III contains chapters devoted to management systems and tools including innovative financing approaches, and conclusions and recommendations.

Country Overview

Uganda is a land-locked country sitting astride the Equator, characterised by a number of major transboundary natural resources (lakes, rivers and mountains). The latter call for greater cooperation with neighbouring countries.

From the 39 districts which were in existence in 1994, there are now 70 confirmed, with others proposed but not implemented as of 2005. While the increase in the number of districts will mean greater devolvement of central government functions including that of

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